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PUBLIC STATEMENT OF ED KAPLAN

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MR. KAPLAN: Good evening. My name is Ed Kaplan, Gardnerville, Nevada. I don't have a prepared speech. I'll do my best extemporaneously.

1 I have two comments. [The first deals with a program I watch quite often called Firing Line, William F. Buckley, Jr., Comes on Sundays. I watched it last year, and I can't remember the date. It is a half hour program. He usually gets fairly high level persons speaking on any given subject.

And the subject that day happened to be on the subject of what we're here for tonight. And this gentleman was highly rated. I believe seismic, and I think he had some physics knowledge.

At any rate, I remember one particular comment he made, and I would refer this group, the DOE to that program, and hopefully they might be able to dig it up. This gentleman referred to a site that had been studied lying between the Aleutians and the Hawaiian Islands, and I forget the exact depth. I think it was somewhere around two miles deep. And the studies that he had had indicated that there had been no seismic activity of any kind down there for something like I think it was 10 million or more years. I'm not at all sure how they arrived at that.

But Mr. Buckley seemed to think that that might be something for the DOE or whoever to look into. And I hope that this might be a possibility. As I say, it was back in '98.]

2 [The other thing, the other comment I would like to make is concerning the I guess you would call it the track record, which scares me and I guess probably scares a lot of other people. Fear is not something easily dealt with.

We have a situation of the Columbia River and the Colorado River being sources of water for drinking purposes and agriculture, and as I understand it, up at Hanford, we have a pollution problem for the Columbia River which is more than just severe. It's crucial. And I'm not sure that too much can be done about that.

However, the people up there and their water supply is,

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as I understand it, fairly heavily contaminated. And I'm very leery of what might happen down here in the Lake Mead area on the same scale.

Now it took 50 years for that to occur, and I'm sure the situation is different, and yet, I'm sure that the same people in DOE tried their best to keep things under control.

However, we're all human, and I would just sum up by saying that I understand also from some friends of mine that the security with respect to radiation and the handling of uranium, plutonium, those kinds of goods back in Oak Ridge has lately been held to be extremely poor. I think it was something in the newspapers about that recently.

I would like to see some reason to believe that the future will be a heck of a lot better for any handling that may be done, whether it's at Yucca or anyplace else.   Thank you.